

Claim 1 (twice amended). A method for designing or deploying a communications network, comprising the steps of:

providing a computerized model which represents a physical environment in which a communications network is or will be installed, said computerized model providing a display of at least a portion of said physical environment;

providing performance attributes for a plurality of system components which may be used in said physical environment, a number of said system components having associated with them frequency dependent characteristics;

selecting specific components from said plurality of system components for use in said computerized model;

representing said selected specific components in said display;

running prediction models using the computerized model and said performance attributes to predict performance characteristics of a communications network [composed] comprised of said selected specific components, said prediction models utilizing said frequency dependent characteristics in calculations which predict said performance characteristics of said communications network.

Claim 4 (once amended). The method of claim [1] 3 wherein said cost information comprises a maintenance schedule for selected specific components.

Claim 10 (twice amended). An apparatus for designing or deploying a communications network, comprising:

a means for providing

(I) a computerized model which represents a physical environment in which a communications network is or will be installed, said computerized model providing a display of at least a portion of said physical environment, and

(II) performance attributes for a plurality of system components which may be used in said physical environment, a number of said system components having associated with them frequency dependent characteristics;

a means for selecting specific components from said plurality of system